

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6378

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRAD

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, UR

SUBJ: 1977 MAY DAY SLOGANS

REF: 76 MOSCOW 16365

1. THE CPSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE'S SLOGANS, ISSUED EVERY SIX MONTHS FOR MAY DAY AND FOR THE NOVEMBER 7 CELEBRATION, PROVIDE AN INDICATOR OF THE PARTY'S GENERAL PRIORITIES IN DOMESTIC AS WELL AS FOREIGN POLICY. WHEN COMPARED WITH THE SLOGANS FOR LAST NOVEMBER, THE CURRENT BATCH (GIVEN IN PRAVDA APRIL 18) DISCLOSES A NEW EMPHASIS ON LATIN AMERICA AND ON "SOCIALIST COMPETITION" IN THE USSR BUT NO OTHER MAJOR CHANGES. AS WAS THE CASE SIX MONTHS AGO, THE OVERALL IMPRESSION IS MASSIVE CONTINUITY.

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2. ON THE DOMESTIC SIDE:

-- IN KEEPING WITH THE MEDIA CAMPAIGN FOR SOCIALIST COMPETITION IN HONOR OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF 1917, SOCIALIST COMPETITION HAS REBOUNDED FROM THE DOWN-GRADING IT UNDERWENT IN THE NOVEMBER 1976 SLOGANS.

IT THEN DROPPED FROM SLOGAN FIVE TO SLOGAN 19 AND WAS ELIMINATED FROM A SLOGAN ON AGRICULTURE. IN THE CURRENT LISTING, SOCIALIST COMPETITION IS PROMINENTLY FEATURED IN THE NUMBER FIVE POSITION, REINSERTED IN A SLOGAN ON AGRICULTURE, AND REPEATED AS A SECOND PARAGRAPH IN A SLOGAN ADDRESSED TO WORKERS OF THE SOVIET UNION (NUMBER 21);

-- A NEW SLOGAN, NUMBER 15, IS DEVOTED TO "SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY, THE PROVISION OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, GENUINE POPULAR RULE, THE HARMONIOUS COMBINATION OF THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY, THE COLLECTIVE AND THE INDIVIDUAL" PRESUMABLY IN REACTION TO WESTERN CRITICISM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE USSR.

3. REGARDING FOREIGN POLICY:

-- THE SLOGANS ON RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSION (NUMBER 62) AND DISARMAMENT (NUMBER 63) ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF SIX MONTHS AGO;

-- A NEW SLOGAN, NUMBER 52, IS ADDRESSED TO LATIN AMERICA ("WARM GREETINGS TO THE PEOPLES OF LATIN AMERICA, WHO ARE CONDUCTING A BRAVE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE DANGER OF FASCISM, THE YOKE OF IMPERIALIST MONOPOLIES, FOR PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIAL PROGRESS"), PERHAPS SIGNALLING HEIGHTENED SOVIET INTEREST IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD;

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-- THE SLOGAN ADDRESSED TO WORKERS IN CAPITALIST COUNTRIES (NUMBER 48) IS GIVEN A TOUGHER FORMULATION; SIX MONTHS AGO THIS SLOGAN LISTED THE POSITIVE GOALS OF WORKERS IN THE "CAPITALIST SYSTEM" (RIGHTS, PEACE, DEMOCRACY AND SOCIALISM); THE CURRENT SLOGAN ADDS THAT SUCH WORKERS ARE ALSO STRUGGLING "AGAINST EXPLOITATION AND DOMINANCE OF MONOPOLIES"; THIS CHANGE IS IN LINE WITH THE HARsher MEDIA TREATMENT WE HAVE RECENTLY SEEN REGARDING THE "EVILS OF CAPITALISM," WHICH IN TURN APPARENTLY REFLECTS A SOVIET RESPONSE TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

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Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Remarks:
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